

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2012

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, S. Marr, G. Pohorely, L. Ferguson
Absent:

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting

The Washington Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting was called to order and the "Open Public Meetings Act" read into the Record. The meeting was duly advertised and posted on the Bulletin Board for Monday, October 10, 2012. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by L. Ferguson that the minutes be approved for the meetings of July 9, 2012 and September 10, 2012.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0 Abstain: 1
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sidewalk Damage along Carlton Avenue - K. Halpin did not meet with the Borough Manager to further discuss the options of repairing the uplifted sidewalks. The issue will be postponed to a later time.
2. Andy-Matt, Inc. Update on the Removals from the 2012 Maintenance List - The entire job involved removing 4 trees and 12 stumps in the r.o.w. area. The vendor was paid \$6,000 to cover the entire cost, which was approved at the October 2, 2012 Council Meeting.
3. Trim & Removal Assessments - An updated 2012 Maintenance List was reviewed to select locations that are a high priority. K. Halpin suggested getting quotes on (5) sites that need trimming or removal. A decision will be made at the November meeting to maintain as many areas as possible, depending on the remaining balance in the Shade Tree's budget. The quote requests will be mailed out as soon as possible.
4. Quotes for Removals at 132 Sunrise Terrace and 196 Broad Street - After reviewing the quotes for (2) removals including with and without stump removals, a Motion was made

by S. Marr and seconded by L. Ferguson to choose Peterson and Sons for the job. This vendor was the most cost efficient selection for the Commission.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Roger Provencal, the property owner at 196 Broad Street attended the meeting to discuss some concerns regarding the removal of his Norway Maple. Mr. Provencal requested to keep the wood for his fireplace and would like to be contacted when the tree removal is scheduled. He also inquired about transporting the tree to another location after it was sectioned. K. Halpin declined his request explaining that the town pays for the labor and equipment that the tree service needs to maintain town trees. The vendor is not responsible for transporting the wood to another location for the homeowner.

5. Quercus Alba White Oak Tree Replacement at Memorial School - When the Arbor Day White Oak died, K. Halpin was told that a replacement would be planted in March. Three Brothers Nursery suggested planting a Swamp Oak, which is in stock. G. Pohorely was skeptical of this species in the location by the school. However, after meeting with the nursery's owner and having a year guarantee on the replacement, Gary was assured that this would be an appropriate choice. The nursery can plant the replacement this October or November. K. Halpin requested that G. Pohorely confirm the planting time with Three Brothers since she was originally told it would occur next Spring. Memorial School will need to be contacted regarding this new development.
6. Tree Trimming at Washington Borough Park - Recreation Chairman, Victor Cioni requested tree trimming at the Borough Park. K. Halpin visited the location with Mr. Cioni and agreed that there are trees that need maintenance. Due to the limited funds remaining in 2012, K. Halpin commented that a grant was necessary to properly maintain an area as large as the Park. K. Halpin will inquire about any available grants when she attends the 2012 New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Conference on October 27th. No action will be taken at this time.
7. 55 West Church Street - The dead tree growing between the curb and the street is not a Shade Tree Commission matter. It was not planted by the town. K. Halpin commented that this is a closed issue.
8. 18 Prosper Way - Homeowner (Aaron Calland) requested tree trimming for his Red Maple. S. Marr and K. Halpin visited the location and determined that it was not in the r.o.w. area. Mr. Calland was present when the commissioners arrived at his property. He was instructed that the tree's maintenance was his responsibility. No further action is needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 160 Van Buren Street - Homeowner (Tammy Taeschler) reported a dying Maple Tree in front of her property. K. Halpin visited the location and determined that the r.o.w. tree was declining but not an immediate hazard to the public. The homeowner was notified that the tree would be put on the Maintenance List but would not be considered until an undetermined time in 2013. Mrs. Taeschler was given the option to have the tree removed

at her own expense, providing that she use a professional tree service. The owner has considered removing another tree in her backyard and may have them both done at the same time. There is no further action taken at this time.

2. 35 Youmans Avenue - Homeowner (Heather Savacool) reported that her r.o.w. tree needs trimming. G. Pohorely visited the location and determined that the Norway Maple was a healthy tree and did not need any maintenance. Gary checked the location on several occasions and did not see any indication of decline. A letter will be sent to the property owner stating this fact.
3. Gibson's Gym - A downtown tree was damaged near Gibson's Gym. Some branches broke off from a truck parked in front of the gym. K. Halpin visited the location and determined that the tree is healthy and a replacement is not necessary. There is no action needed at this time.
4. North Jackson Avenue - A concerned citizen reported some hanging branches on trees located at 10 and 14 North Jackson Avenue. K. Halpin visited the location and agreed that the trees need to be trimmed. However, it was not confirmed that they are town trees. K. Halpin suggested that the r.o.w. measurements be taken at the site and then referenced to the Borough's street and curb width cards. G. Pohorely will take the measurements on North Jackson and report back at the November 14th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by S. Marr and seconded by G. Pohorely that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming